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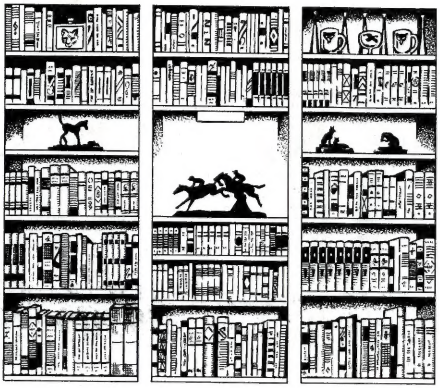

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PROPRIETOR OF THE POLICE GAZETTE
PUBLISHING HOUSE

THE COCKER'S GUIDE

HOW TO BREED, TRAIN, AND FEED
GAME BIRDS FOR THE PIT

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM LIFE

RULES FOR ALL MAINS

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT SIMON FLAHERTY'S,
LAUREL HILL, L. I., BY VANDER WEYDE

RICHARD K. FOX, PUBLISHER
FRANKLIN SQUARE, NEW YORK CITY

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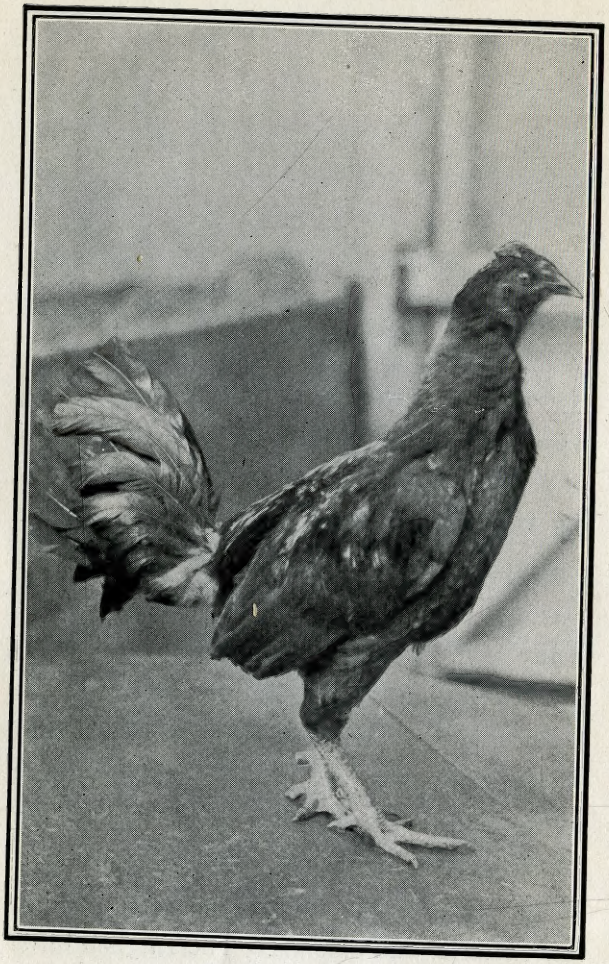
CHAPTER I.

THE PROGRESS OF COCK FIGHTING.

Cock fighting was introduced centuries ago in Europe and into this country long before the Declaration of Independence. It first became popular in this country, however, in 1815 and the first regular main of which there is any record was fought on an English man-of-war lying off the old Battery in New York Harbor, between officers of the ship who imported the fowls and birds owned by some Whitehall people. A pit was constructed on the ship and a number of noted personages attended the affair, among them many high functionaries and officials. The English birds were defeated, not owing to the superior fight



TRIMMED BIRD READY FOR THE GAFFS.

ing qualities of the home bred fowls but owing to the lack of condition of their opponents. The main led to a great private match for a large sum between two fowls owned respectively by Jaques Zimmer of New York and one of the officers of the ship who had a splendid Spanish bred fowl. In this affair the English birds won after a desperate battle.

Since that time thousands of sporting men have interested themselves in the breeding, raising and training of game fowls for fighting purposes, and numerous matches have been fought for thousands of dollars annually

The general public as a rule, knows very little about cock-fighting, except what can be learned from occasional newspaper accounts of mains, which are principally fought in an uninhabited location. Owing to a prejudice against cock-fighting no publicity is given to these matches and, therefore, only the initiated attend. In ancient times the sport flourished, and a pit at Whitehall was at one time patronized by royalty. Cock-fighting,

WEIGHING A PIT GAME.

however, was placed under the ban in England in 1654, but it exists despite the prohibition up to the present day there

About thirty years ago cock-fighting was a great institution. Inter State mains were arranged between rival breeders and men of wealth and responsibility were interested in these matches

The mains fought in those days were largely attended by prominent sporting men and small fortunes often depended on the result of what is called the odd fight. Cock-fighting like all other sports and pastimes in this country was injured by the sharp practices of some of the pitters and frequently by the owners themselves, who would lay money against their own fowls and allow them to be defeated in order to win.

On the other hand cock-fighting became so popular and there was so much fraud practiced that a law was passed which made both principals or spectators who engaged in or attended these affairs liable to fine and imprisonment

EXERCISING ON THE WORK TABLE.

Fraudulent matches and the action of the authorities was the means of keeping the leading men from aiding the sport, consequently for a time few big battles were fought except between private parties and fanciers and breeders. The greatest places in the world years ago for cock-fighting were Cuba and Mexico, and Sunday was the day which was selected for the sport, and even at the present time large mains are fought and the sport lasts several days.

In the Southern States prior to the war large mains were fought and the South could boast of splendid game fowls. Since the war the sport of cock-fighting has been revived among the leading turfmen, planters, merchants, etc., and mains have been fought which lasted several days. Louisiana, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina at the present time fight annually Inter State mains for as large a sum as $5,000 a side the odd fight and $1 000 a side the main.

One of the most important mains in the East

A BLINKER WHO GETS A WEIGHT ALLOWANCE.

was that fought privately in Kentucky. The stakes were reported to be $2,500 on each battle and $10,000 on the odd fight. Old Tom Heathwood, whose birds at one time were famous, furnished the fowls for the New York contingent. At this main bets of $500 and $1,000 were not unusual.

HOW THE WINGS ARE CLIPPED.

CHAPTER II.

BREEDING GAME FOWLS.

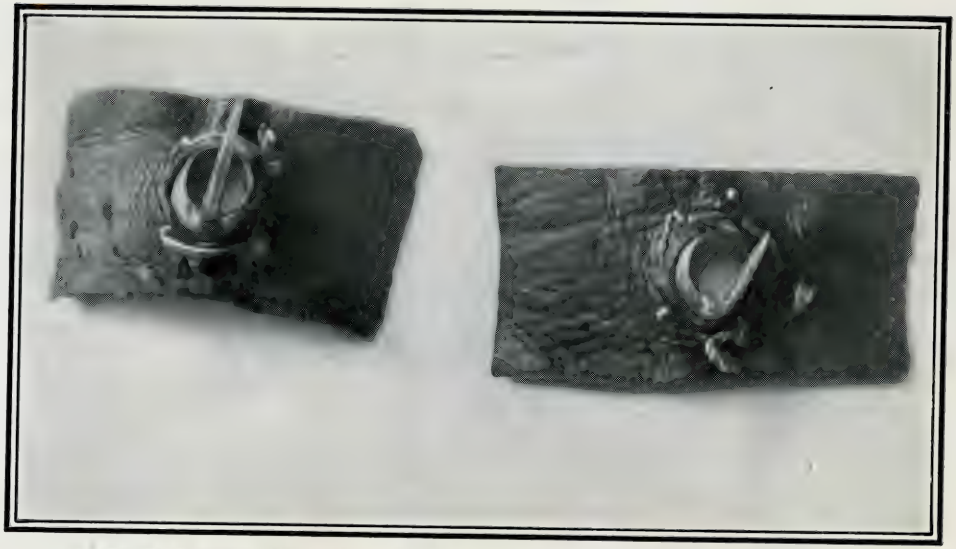
To breed game fowls a proper method should be the first consideration with all fanciers of stock of whatever kind, and especially is this true of those who take pride in raising game fowls. There are many such scattered all over the land, the liking for this variety amounting to a passion with many.

Poultry raising, to many, is simply a question of profit; to others the question is one of pleasure and profit combined; to yet others it is solely one of pleasure. In the first may be classed many farmers; in the second the same element is the controlling one; in the third we only find poultry fanciers and sports-

THE PITTER'S TOOLS.

men. All, however, are interested in methods of breeding, and those who take the most pride show the strongest fancy, are intent upon following only such methods as are natural and right in themselves.

These are but general truths. They can scarcely be called general when applied to those who breed game fowls, for the reason that we find most of our Englishmen, Scotchmen and Irishmen (all confessing a love for games) addicted to the practice of breeding in-and-in, and of breeding to a feather. They adhere to this practice because their fathers adhered to it throughout their lives, and their fathers' fathers before them. Fowls thus bred eventually are so weakened physically as to be practically worthless. Somehow or other game blood will always show itself. It is there, and, when unmixed, generations of malpractice fail to dilute it—to rob it of its chief attribute, displayed in unflinching courage. Yet courage is too often impotent when it fails in vigor, and the old, as also the general system of

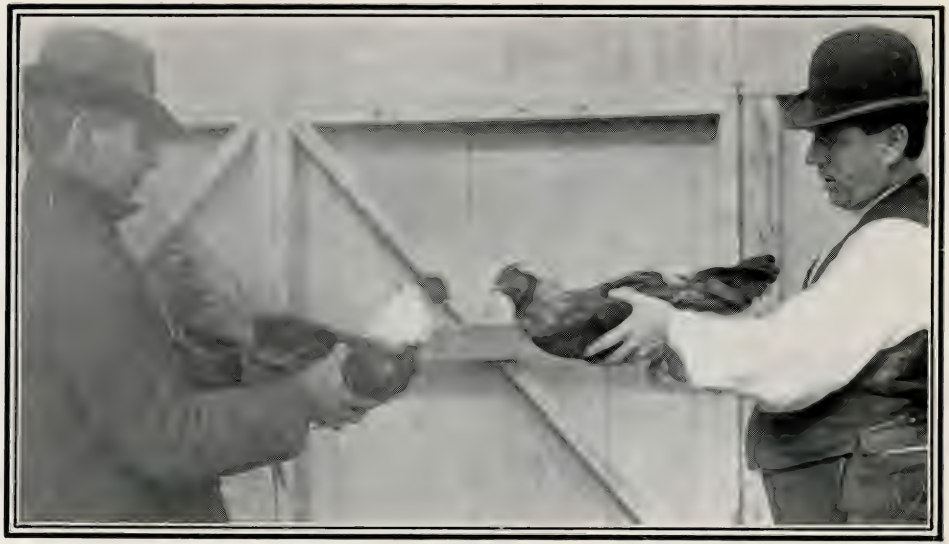


THE REGULATION NEW YORK SPURS WITH PLIABLE LEATHER FASTENINGS.

breeding game fowls at present destroys that vigor which gives them success in pit contests, and makes them superior to all other species of poultry in lofty bearing, quickness of movement, and strength in action.

It is impossible to add to size, muscle, bone, endurance, by breeding fowls with their relatives. You must constantly freshen the blood to add to its value, to give it life, health and vigor. Let us remember that the only justification for the term "breed" as applied to games, is found in odd marks of distinction, and when the only object is to preserve these, they are preserved at the sacrifice of every thing else. Nor can we commingle crosses for too long a time without incurring the same dangers, and without inviting, also, dangers incident to the other plan. Change is the law—not change of game blood, but change of blood in games—one game mingling with a different one.

Courage characterizes the species. It never fails where the blood is pure, and many breed-



BILLING A PAIR OF GAME COCKS.

ers have great faith in the idea that games are a distinct species of fowls; no faith in the theory that they are the result of some poultry mixture with pheasants, or any other forest bird. They are of distinct blood—probably of original blood—and the theory that other breeds are the result of such mixtures as those hinted at is far more plausible, for reasons which need no explanation. But men who have given much thought and research to the history of games scout any idea of mixture with baser blood, and every test shows that they are correct. What I desire to show, is that many well-intentioned fanciers and breeders of games allow old habits and prejudices to operate against their successful breeding—against strength, life, health—against all the qualities and characteristics which go to make the pure game the king of the poultry yard.

Breeders should never breed from two old fowls; let one at least be young; be also thoroughly convinced that the cock is quite sound, by attending to his mode of feeding.

BIRDS READY TO BOX—SEE THE GLOVES ON FEET.

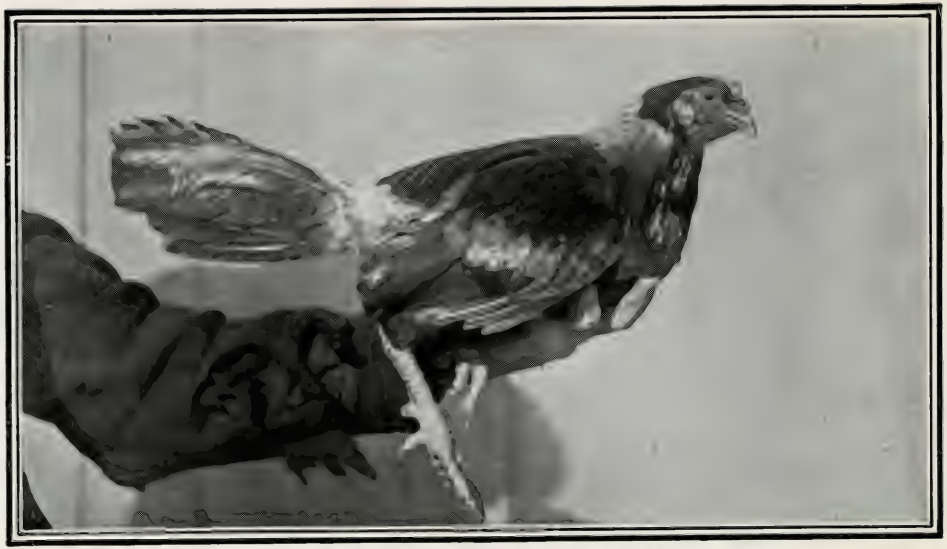
Should he eat corn enough to make his crop very hard, and digest the same speedily, that is as sure a token his constitution is good, so that it is rotten when he eats but little, and has besides a bad digestion. To be still more sure, try also by running him down in a field, and sparring with another cock, at either of which, if he is unsound, he will turn black in the face. Try the hens in like manner. Three or four hens are enough for one cock. Let them be sisters if possible. The breeding place should be well aired, and entirely free from other fowl, lest the hens should be trod by other cocks, Clear water, grass, gravel, and lime rubbish, and an occasional change of food, is good—as barley, oats, potatoes. a little meat, toast and ale, etc. The roosts should be rather low, as the heavy fowls otherwise would, in descending cripple themselves. The perches should be exactly suited to the grasp of the foot. There should be no geese or turkeys at the walk, as they are always battering the fowls. The nests should be made of

THE ONLY CORRECT AND SAFE WAY FOR THE HANDLER TO HOLD THE BIRD.

clean, dry straw, rubbed soft between the hands, and put in a basket, earthen pan. or some such dish and about a foot and a half from the ground. Hay is injurious to the eggs, faint in the smell, and is apt to engender vermin. There should be more nests than hens, as it will prevent them quarreling and breaking the eggs. One egg should always be marked with ink, and left in the nest for them to lay to, that you may know it from the others. As the eggs are laid, take them from the nest, mark and put them in bran, with the small end downwards.

A first-class fighting cock should have bright eyes, great freedom of motion, boldness in his demeanor and display great force and strength in all his proportions.

The head should be small, the beak strong and pointed, the neck long and well formed, the body, chest and shoulders broad to the grasp and tapering again to the rump, the thighs rather long than short and well made and strong, with broad, thin feet and very



A FOUL HACKLE—WITH FEATHERS LEFT ON MANE OR NECK.

long claws. A first-class high bred game fowl should have an upright easy carriage, the wings extended and not by any means laying close on his back.

One great point in a well bred game fowl is to see that he brings his legs close up to his body when held in the hands instead of allowing them to hang down in a loose manner.

A cock in the best of health and condition will always crow shrill and clear; his feathers will also shine and be short and hard, and it will be found very difficult to pull or pluck them. His face should be a glowing red, for if there is a paleness it is a sure sign the cock is either sick, unhealthy or ailing.

The comb of a breeding hen should be thin, upright, quite straight and neatly serrated and the weight of this fowl should average about four to five ponnds. A well bred hen should be neat and trim and breeders should pay great attention to the fact of its being alert, quick and active.

The following is what the characteristics of

CRIPPLED AND UNABLE TO FINISH THE BATTLE AGAINST ODDS.

what a game cock should be:—The head should be rather long, thin and keen, beak strong, slightly curved, and stout where set on; whole face smooth and fine in texture. including deaf-ears and throat. (In undubbed birds the comb should be upright, thin, straight, and evenly serrated; deaf-ears and wattles also very thin, red and smooth, in texture.) Eyebrows free from "lowering" expression, which denotes Malay blood. Neck somewhat long and slightly arched; hackle short, so as just to reach between the shoulders, but not to flow over the back. The body and general shape rather slight, largest at shoulders, and tapering to the tail somewhat like the shape of a fir-cone; back flat, widest at shoulders, and tapering towards saddle, and somewhat slanting; breast hard and full, but not deep or turkey-breasted; saddle narrow, the feathers short and scanty; wings powerful and of moderate length; the points nicely carried under the saddle-feathers. The legs, feet and thighs should be long, but well carried along the

SEPARATING BIRDS AFTER A BRAIN BLOW WITH THE STEEL GAFF.

body. not perpendicularly, or so as to appear long, very round and hard; shanks in just proportion, with smoth handsome scales, the spurs set on rather low; toes long, straight, and thin, with well-shaped nails, and the back toe low and nearly flat on the ground. The tail should be moderately raised, and each sickle-feather as nearly as possible just clearing the next one and no more; the sickles and whole plumage sound, hard and glossy. The weight of a well bred game cock should range from four pounds and a half to six pounds and it should show agility, strength, "elasticity," and vigor, with great hardness of flesh and plumage, and be very upright, and courageous.

The characteristics of the hen should be in all respects similar to those of the cock, except that the tail is carried not much above the horizontal line, and her comb should be thin, upright, quite straight, and neatly serrated. Rather small, averaging about four pounds and a half. General appearance—Very neat and trim. Carriage—Alert, quick, and active.

PROPER WAY TO HOLD THE BIRDS WHEN PLACING THEM IN THE PIT.

CHAPTER III.

HOW TO TRAIN.

Training for the pit is one of the most important branches of cock fighting. Many a fancier has a splendid lot of game fowls placed at his disposal to feed and train and yet lost the battle or main merely because his system of training failed to bring the fowls up to that fine condition that was absolutely necessary. Like trainers of pedestrians, fighting dogs, and horses, every breeder and fancier has his own idea and his own system and it is seldom that they are willing and ready to receive advice, believing that they know more than anybody else, and while in some instances they are right, in the most cases they are wrong.

SAWING OFF THE NATURAL SPUR OF A BIRD.

Here is a system of training that has invariably shown good results:—

The first thing to do with a bird that has either been in transit or brought in from the range is to cut off the spurs, trim the tail and the feathers from under the vent; wash the feet with soap and warm water, and after wiping dry rub with alcohol or Pond's Extract; sponge the head with whiskey or alcohol. Then put in a clean coop with fresh straw.

Wheat bread and warm milk (not boiled) should be the first feed, and the birds should have all they want. It not only acts as a physic, and gives them a good cleaning out, but is food and drink and also reduces fever.

No medicine of any kind is necessary at this stage of the game, and one feed of bread and milk is sufficient on the first day.

For the second day repeat the bread and warm milk, adding enough cooked corn meal to thicken, which will have the effect of checking the bowels. Feed but once and let them eat all they want.

REGULATION BOXING GLOVES USED FOR EXERCISING THE BIRDS.

By the third day the bird will be well cleaned out and free from all fever and then they may be put on any diet. During these days it will be advisable to change the straw frequently, so as to keep the coop dry and clean.

A game fowl in training should be fed as follows:—

Bread made out of three pounds of flour mixed with yeast and four whites of eggs, also two eggs, a little cinnamon, and a few annis seeds; after it is baked cut this in small pieces, give one cup full in the morning, and one in the evening, allowing no water the third day with the above bread.

Fourth morning, he should have half a tea-cup full of good barley and a little water, in which a piece of toast has been steeped; having eaten this, clean his pen and give new straw, leaving his pen uncovered about an hour, to allow him to scratch himself. The barley should be hard chaffed, to take away the sharp points; in the afternoon the same quantity of barley, but no water.

DOWN AND OUT—THE FINISH OF THE BATTLE.

Fifth day, bread as before, in three quantities, but no water.

Sixth day, bread early in the morning, and towards the afternoon a good feed of barley and water. Some feeders give sheep's heart, cut small, both this and the succeeding day, mixed with the other food.

Seventh day, a feed of barley early in the morning; in the afternoon, bread and the white of an egg boiled hard, allowing him also a little water.

Eighth day, or day of fighting, allow him about 40 grains of barley, and one or two mouthfuls of water from a toast, apple or cheese, for digesting; hemp seed steeped in brandy, prevents purging. Wheat or millet seed may be added to his food, sometimes hemp seed as a small mixture. Bread toast, soaked in vinegar, is sometimes given for reducing quickly.

Before a cock is trained for the pit a handler should be careful and see that he is sound and the feathers hard. The birds should be fed at sunrise, noon, and sunset, their pens kept

THE GAFF HAS GONE THROUGH THE BRAIN IN THIS FIGHT.

clean and plenty of spring water should be allowed them at each meal.

A well known breeder was training a pile stag for a main and he had his doubts about it being game. What he did with the fowl as a test will be seen from the following:—

"I took from my yard a pile stag, which had been running master about two months, brought him over to New York, and proceeded to 'cut him up,' as I was not positive as to the quality of the stock from which he was bred. The following was the modus operandi of the cutting process: A stag about the same weight as my own—five pounds four ounces—was heeled and corks put on his gaffs until but half an inch of cutting surface was left. This bird was a spangle. In six minutes the pile drove him away, although he—the pile—was very severely cut about the head, had received a brain blow which crazed him for about a second, and had his left eye cut out. The heels were now taken off the spangle and put on a blue pile stag, who turned out a tip-top

TRIMMING THE NECK FEATHERS WITH ORDINARY SHEARS.

fighter and a close cutter. But he was unequal to the task of killing my bird, and after he had fought about twenty minutes, we took him up and put down a large black cock. In about five minutes we again put down the blue pile, who was by this time considerably rested. Eight or ten minutes' more hard fighting now ensued, my bird losing his other eye and getting another brain blow, which knocked him apparently lifeless; but he came again and struck villainously when ever he could get a hold. A black-red cock was now put at him, and after slashing away a few minutes we again put the blue pile down. In about three minutes my bird drove him away, and we then had recourse to a black-red stag, who proved to be a tremendous fighter. By this time the pile was riddled from his head to his heels, and had lost a great quantity of blood, as well as the use of his eyes and his left wing. He was still very savage, however, and struck at everything that came in his way, although unable to stand up more than a sec-

PUTTING THE GAFF ON A BIRD READY TO GO IN THE PIT.

ond at a time. The black-red was put down, and the moment he touched the floor went at the disabled bird with a rush, and in three minutes drove him away.

"After he was dead—I cut his head off then and there—I removed the feathers, and found he was as badly cut as any bird I ever saw. The cutting lasted one hour and twenty-five minutes, during which, as you will have observed, we had three stags and two old cocks at him, besides having rested the blue pile stag twice."

LACING ON THE GAFF WITH STRING WRAPPED AROUND THE LEATHER.

CHAPTER IV.

THE CAUSE OF DISEASES IN THE GAME FOWL AND HOW TO CURE THEM.

Game fowls are subject to various diseases, viz., roup, cholera, pip or gapes, rheumatism or lifts, gout, club-foot, inflammation of the eye, indigestion, costiveness, diarrhoea, obstructions of the nostrils, canker, asthma, melancholia, fever, consumption and chicken pox.

Moulting, or shedding the feathers, is of annual occurrence, and frequently requires treatment; after the third year, fowls moult later each succeeding year, and it is often as late as January before old fowls come into feather. The time of moulting continues ac-

cording to age, health and weather, from six weeks to three months.

Asthma is caused by obstruction of the air cells and an accumulation of phlegm, which interferes with the exercise of their function and causes them to labor for breath.

Chicken pox is generally the result of fighting, when the head has been badly pecked. It will come sometimes without any apparent cause, and will affect a number at the same time.

Cholera is a disease of recent introduction, and in some instances the fowl dies in less than an hour after it is attacked. Under dissection the liver is found much enlarged, and a sticky, slimy substance covers the surface. This slime everywhere appears to pervade the mucus membrane, and clogging up the air passages produces death.

Inflammation of the eye originates from exposure to cold and moist weather, attended with easterly winds.

Costiveness arises from dry diet, without

access to vegetables—the latter they should always be furnished with. The chickens should be furnished with chick weed, tender grass, green cabbage, etc.

Club-foot is an ailing which generally shows itself in large fowls, and arises from flying off high places and causing too severe a jar.

Rheumatism is noticed in fowls in mid-summer, after much damp and rainy weather, and sometimes comes from plunging them in water for the hatching fever.

Pip is confined to young fowls during the hotter months, and is attributed to unclean food, dirty water, cold, damp localities, or from drinking rain water.

Roup—This disease is the rising and falling of the wattle in breathing, whooping sound in the throat, offensive discharge from the nostrils, occasionally the head and eyes become swollen and feverish, which, if not attended to, will form matter in the eyes; this requires prompt attention or it will destroy the sight.

How to cure this disease is to at once separ-

ate the fowl and put it in a warm box with straw, changing the straw daily. Bathe its head and throat with warm salted water, after which open the eyes and wash with the end of a rag, saturated in the water. Give a pill composed of chalk and cayenne pepper, mixed equally, every morning. If a rattling in the throat, give one teaspoonful of cod liver oil every night. After three or four days, if improved, tie the fowl by the leg and let it out in the sunshine, returning it to its warm box every night.

Cholera is a drooping of the wings, and a sticky slime in the mouth and throat.

A fowl affected with cholera should be given one pill every day, the size of a common marble, prepared of cayenne pepper two parts, prepared chalk two parts, pulverized gentian one part, pulverized charcoal one part; mix all well together into a paste with lard. Keep the fowl dry and warm for forty-eight hours. Do not give water. As a preventive, make a paste of cayenne pepper one part, prepared

chalk one part, pulverized gentian two parts, and pulverized charcoal two parts, mixed with lard.

Pip or gapes are formed from worms in the windpipe; the membrane of the tongue is thickened, particularly towards the windpipe, breathing is impeded, and the bill often held open, as if gasping for breath. The cure is to cut off the tip end of the tongue, give a small pill once a day, composed of prepared chalk and ground black pepper of equal proportions, and made into a paste with lard. When mixed add a few drops of oil of wormseed, and mix it well with the paste. Pills of all kinds must be forced down the throat.

Rheumatism or lifts is a stiffness of the limbs and joints, lifting the feet high, slow and as if in pain, while others jerk by starts.

The best way to treat this disease is to bathe the upper joint of the thigh with spirits or alcohol; dry it in well; then make an ointment of fish-worms, simmer them down in butter, then strain and grease the whole leg

and thigh every day. Do not be content with a few trials of this remedy, but give it a fair chance.

Gout—This disease is generally confined to old fowls. and is known by swelling of the joints; it should be treated the same as rheumatism.

To cure club foot scarify the limb with a sharp knife or a scalpel, cut just through the skin, begin on the outside of the lump and let all the cuts run to the centre. Then scrape out all the coagulated blood that the tumor contains, and well cleaned, bring all the flaps to the centre; then double a strip of muslin four or five times; have it large enough to cover all the sole of the foot; place this over the flaps when brought together, then tie with narrow strips of muslin or broad tape; bring it through the toes so as to have it well tied, or sewed fast above, which is better. Secure it so that it cannot come off; let it remain so for one or two weeks, then take it off and you will find the foot nearly well.

In inflammation of the eye small abscesses are formed on the cornea, which are filled with a white colored pus. The eye becomes inflamed, the lids swelling to a great extent, and a coagulable matter, like the white of an egg, accumulates beneath the swelling.

The best remedy is to bathe the head and throat with hot salted water, then remove any pus that has accumulated in the eye, after which wash the eye out by holding the lids open and fill the eye up with fine table salt. Pour down the fowl's throat half a teaspoonful of fine, dry black pepper. Repeat this treatment once a day, keeping the fowl in a warm dry place, and place him in the sun for a few hours every day.

Indigestion is a disease every fowl contracts. Exercise the fowl daily, give him less food and a large pill, made of cayenne pepper one part, prepared chalk one part, pulverized gentian two parts, pulverized charcoal two parts, mixed into a paste with lard. Feed with baked cake composed of corn meal, crumbs of

bread and egg soaked in good ale. To cure costiveness in a game fowl is to give as much pulverized rhubarb as will lay on a two cent piece, to open the bowels.

Diarrhœa resembles the yolk of a stale egg sticking to the feathers near the vent. The best treatment is to physic with pulverized rhubarb as much as will lay on a silver quarter. Then give daily for several days the following pill: Prepared chalk three parts, cayenne pepper one part, pulverized gentian one part, pulverized charcoal one part, mixed with lard or butter. The pill should be the size of a common marble. Keep the fowl in a warm place for a few days, after which let him run at large in the sunshine.

Obstruction of the nostril, when produced by fighting, forms a hard crust and the fowl gasps for breath. The best remedy is to wash the head with wine, afterwards grease with sweet oil.

Canker in the mouth and inside the bill has a very fetid smell; the canker substance is

yellow. In order to cure this disease scrape off all the yellow substance with a small stick, and if the fowl bleeds it will do no injury. Then rub with the thumb or forefinger the diseased parts with fine, dry table salt. Also, give the fowl half a teaspoonful of dry cayenne pepper inwardly. Repeat this process daily.

To cure asthma physic with pulverized rhubarb, bathe the head with warm salt water, give a teaspoonful of vinegar every morning, and half a teaspoonful of fine black pepper at night.

Melancholy is displayed in a fowl as want of appetite, drooping, etc. A sure cure is to give the fowl pulverized rhubarb, then give a cholera pill daily composed of cayenne pepper two parts, prepared chalk two parts, pulverized gentian one part, pulverized charcoal one part, mixed into a paste with lard, and occasionally half a teaspoonful of vinegar inwardly. For diet, give meal mixed with a little fennel seed, dragon's blood, and wet with good draft ale.

When a fowl has fever it has redness of the eye, hot head, drooping, etc. A breeder should at once give it a little nitre in water, and physic with pulverized rhubarb.

Consumption can be detected by hoarseness, sneezing, etc. The best treatment is to wrap up the fowl in warm flannel; keep them near the fire until they liven up.

CHAPTER V.

THE REGULATION SIZE OF GAFFS.—HOW TO TRIM AND HEEL GAME FOWLS.

In cock fighting one of the most important things to be attended to is the long barbed steel instruments styled spurs or gaffs, for on these depend the result of any contest. Centuries ago the spurs used in cock fighting were made of silver, but for the past half century steel gaffs have had the preference.

The pit in which cocks are fought is generally twenty feet in circumference; the sides are about three feet high and padded, while on the floor is a carpet. Over the pit is a jet light on which the match list is hung, giving the weights of the fowl that are to fight the main.

A large variety of spurs are in use, nearly every State varying more or less in style, length and size. The regulation spur governing New York State mains and matches measures one inch and a quarter from the top rim of the socket to the extreme point of the blade, which is round, tapering to a fine point, diverging from the sockets outwards in a slight curve upwards.

The spurs should be made of the finest tempered steel, must be well finished, and of such a quality as to stand being struck against stone without fear of breaking.

Perhaps there are few cutlers who properly understand the making and tempering of gaffs, and those sold by large importing houses are, as a general thing, useless, as the material of which they are made is a little better than pewter or nickel, and many of the sockets are not large enough to cover the natural heel of a game fowl. One style of gaff is the drop socket, and is so styled from the blade dropping downward at the socket,

and, although considered unfair, is greatly in use all over this country, but, as a rule, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts fanciers refuse to use them, as they are much more severe in cutting and make shorter work of a battle.

Saw blades are another kind of gaff. Slashers are another, and diamond blades still another, which measure from three to five inches in length. All these kind of gaffs are, as a rule, barred out in the East, but in the West many are used, while the Cubans and Mexicans prefer fighting their game fowl with these barbarous, glittering steels.

Fanciers who fight "turn outs" generally use gaffs two and a half inches in length. The standard gaffs that should be used are one inch and a quarter or one inch and a half in length. Long spurs are only useful in the first fly or two, but in a buckle they are next to useless. A game fowl may be able to fight for hours with an inch and a quarter spurter, while if longer are used he may be killed on

the first buckle or fly after they are placed on the scratch. Besides short spurs decide which are the gamest fowl, while there is little prospect of deciding this question when longer ones are used.

One important thing in regard to cock fighting is the trimming and heeling. The following is the way to trim a game fowl for a shake bag or a main. Tie the fowl's legs with a piece of soft string; place him firmly in your lap, and be sure to have his legs between your knees, and his head towards you. Collect all his neck, all the feathers on the neck together; apply your forefinger and thumb in a circular form to that part of the neck next to the shoulder of the cock, and press forward the whole of his neck feathers as close around his head as possible. The feathers will then nearly all stand up around his head, so that with a sharp pair of scissors all the feathers can be clipped off. The feathers, however, must not be cut so close as to leave the flesh bare. After the neck feathers are all carefully

cut off, two inches should be clipped off the ends of both wings. At the same time the handler must be sure that he cuts the flight feathers so that they are within a quarter of an inch longer than the others, leaving the flight feathers furthest from the body the shortest, which should be at least three inches from its insertion to the wing. The handler should then cut the tail of the game fowl leaving only a large hand's breadth from its insertion to the rump outwards, taking off all the curling feathers around it, leaving only the fan. A handler should always be sure and start trimming at the saddle, cutting from a line with the lower feathers from under the saddle to keep the fowl cool.

All the feathers around the vent must be clipped off close, and from under the tail to three or four inches towards the breast between the legs.

To remove the spurs a thin saw must be procured and only a quarter of an inch of the natural spur must be left, on which the steel

gaff is to be fixed. In sawing off the spurs with which nature has endowed the game fowl, great care must be taken, or else the fowl will be ruined as far as fighting is concerned. The bleeding from the severing of the spur is generally stopped by a red-hot iron, but chalk is the quickest remedy. Trimming requires a great deal of care, and first-class experts only should be allowed to trim a valuable game fowl for battle. Fixing on the gaffs is another important part in the fighting of game fowl, and many a battle has been lost by the inability of heelers with little experience.

Mulholland of New York, Giddings of Brooklyn, and Clacker of New Jersey, are three of the best handlers in the East. They heel the fowl for a battle royal, main or shake bag fight as follows. They procure a thin piece of brown paper, fold it and then wet it, and then wind it around the stub of the cock's natural heel, until the socket of the spur will just fit tight on it like a cap. The steel spur is then pushed on to the natural spur, and the

socket is pressed close against the leg, observing at the same time that the curved part of the spur is next the foot, and the hollow side upwards, or, in other words, the point inclining upwards; it should stand much in the same direction with the natural spur; or, if you take a view from the point to the socket, the point should then appear on a line with the hollow of the inside of the leg; then lap the leather ends over each other, and tie them down with a piece of waxed string about the thickness of a shoemaker's thread, beginning with the middle of the thread on the socket of the spur, close to the spur, going round the leather close to the socket on both sides with the string as often as is necessary for security; this should neither be too tight to cramp him, nor so loose as to come off; for should it come off during the battle, or break, it is not allowed to be replaced. A fair spur should be round and smooth from the socket to the point; if flat on any side or rough, it is foul and improper.

The subjoined is another method of heeling:

Let your fowl be held by a competent person; let him be held so that the inside of the leg is perfectly level; then take your thumb and forefinger and work the back toe of the fowl. While doing this you will see the leader of the leg rise and fall at the upper joint. You will set the right spur on a line with the outside of the leader, at the upper joint of the leg; and the left spur you will set on a line with the inside of the leader, at the upper joint of the leg. Be careful not to set the spur too far in, as it would cause the cock to cut himself. As a general rule for a young beginner, he had better set the right spur on a line with the outside of the leg, opposite to the upper joint; and the left spur on a line with the outside of the leader of the upper joint. Cover the spur with a piece of damp paper, or very soft buckskin, so as to get the socket of the spur to fit tightly, and to prevent its turning or shifting. When you have the spur arranged properly, tie it with good wax ends, but not so tight as to cramp the legs or toes of the fowl.

CHAPTER VI.

THE ILLEGAL TRICKS PRACTISED BY COCK FIGHTERS.

In all kinds of sport tricks are practised in in order to win the "root of all evil"—money. On the turf, in trotting and horse racing, in billiard playing, in pedestrianism and boat races; in fact, in all sports, the contestants, principals or their backers, resort to collusion or unfair means frequently to win money. Cock fighting does not escape the blight, and just as much cheating and dishonest practises are in vogue among the patrons of cock fighting as any other sport.

We have seen mains fought where the "ring" knew which side would win each battle before the birds were brought into the pit, and they

would wager their money accordingly, and entrap the unwary. We have witnessed mains where the referee has given unfair decisions, and decided there was a foul when there was none, merely because he was a partner or probably a backer of the fowl, and thus a party in the swindle.

We append a few of the tricks practised among cock fighters, and it will be seen that no matter how well bred the cock, or how game he may be, if he is not put in the pit to win, and if his backer, the pitter or the referee does not want him to win, it is impossible to do so. In some big mains, where eleven, fifteen or seventeen fowls are to be fought, and the stakes are $100 each battle and $1000 the odd fight, parties frequently pay the referee a large sum to decide the odd fight in their favor and then they bet their money accordingly. Many a pitter from Albany and Pennsylvania has had the best fowls, and if they received fair play would have won the main, and did win it according to rule, but the

referee's decisions, which in many instances were unfair, robbed them of the betting money and the stakes.

During the past twenty years there has been so many of the fixed mains and foul decisions, that sporting men who like to witness a trial of strength, courage and agility, and speculate on the result, now refuse to attend these mains, which are fought State against State, county against county annually all through the season.

Besides unfair decisions other practices are resorted to to win and lose battles during these mains.

Should a handler not want to win he can easily break the thigh of his fowl with his thumb and finger in a second (if he desires to do so), or by pressing his finger hard against the kidneys of the fowl cause him to lose the battle. Several handlers use foul spurs. These appear round on one side, but on the upper side, or that next the body of the cock, they are sharpened with an edge like a knife;

others are three-edged, or bayonet-pointed, which are also foul; in fact, one cannot be too particular in examining the opponent's spurs, which, to be fair, should be perfectly round to the socket, and smooth or polished.

When both cocks are so distressed that neither can scarcely hold up his head, and perhaps the one can no longer peck his antagonist, the second of this last mentioned one, in setting him to with the other, beak to beak, raises his head with one hand, and, with the other, by suddenly raising his tail, bobs him on the other cock, and makes it appear as if he had chopped or pecked, when no such thing took place; this must be strictly watched.

If a cock, after having chopped, becomes so weak as to be unable to do so again, his second, in pretending to set him to, beak to beak, with the other, only puts him near him, and allows his head to drop under the breast of the other, to prevent him from feeling him, who might chop in return and win the battle; they should always in the "long law" be put beak to beak.

If the opponent's cock is a good mouthed cock in distress—that is, one who will readily take hold and fight—his second will place his beak on the neck or shoulder of the other, which gives him a great advantage. if permitted, but is unfair and not admissible.

The same person will sometimes have two cocks taken to the pit, one carried by himself and the other by his friend or some other person, who pretend to know nothing of each other. They then (to appearance) make up a match between the said two cocks, all the while well knowing which is to win, as the one is previously known to be bad and the other good; this is another system in betting, by which they deceive and rob the spectators, for they are safe in betting any odds, and the long odds are generally taken. There are various tricks practised by such parties, but keen observation and second thoughts will avert them.

If the opposite party wish to gain an advantage in weight, they will first see your bird weighed; then one of them may take a two or

four ounce weight, the hollow of which is filled with tallow grease, and stick it close to the bottom of the scale in which the proper weights are, unseen, if possible; and by these means make their cock, which is two or four ounces heavier than the other, appear the same weight. The scales, therefore, should be narrowly examined, and even if you do not look up at the beam the slightest touch of a small stick, or the brim of a hat on some one's head, will make all the difference.

The fowl or fowls of both parties should be weighed by the same weights; for, if the least chance is afforded false ones may be substituted.

Cocks that are intended for battle should never be seen or touched by any one but the master or the feeder, otherwise you are never safe; for they might mix your cock's food with the victuals taken out of the crop of another almost dead with the roop.

Cocks that are meant to fight by gas light should receive their last meals by gas or candle

light each day, about the hour appointed for the contest.

During a fight one bird frequently drives his gaff into his opponent, and they become fast. The handler of the cock who has received the blow takes out the spur, for if this is entrusted to the other handler, he has it in his power to wrench the spur in different directions in taking it out, and do the fowl a serious injury, and might (with the point) rip a hole in him that would bleed him to death; this must be guarded against.

If a cock has but one eye he should not be pitted till the second is convinced that he sees his opponent, but if the opposite second can he will pit his one on the blind side; beware of that.

A handler can pinch a fowl severely in the vent and cause him to lose the battle, though otherwise he would have won it; this will depend on his regard for his employer, or the understanding between him and the opposite party; for if he thinks he can get more from

them as a bribe to sell the fight than he expects from the person who employs him, he will act the above dishonorable part, and for this reason it is advisable for every person to second his own fowl, except there is a very good understanding indeed between him and the person he employs for that purpose.

Handlers cannot be trusted; but, of course, there are exceptions to the rule. A referee who is biased is more to be feared than a handler, but if both are in collusion, what chance has a breeder to win?

Should a principal handler or owner allow the cock to go into the hands of any other person previous to the battle, he may be crippled in an instant, as the person so handling him may wish to see him beaten.

Frequently in a main, the opposite handler pretends not to know that his cock has stuck in the other; he immediately catches him up as high as he can reach, and nearly drags the head from the body of the other, or allows him to fall with great force on the pit.

The following is called "ringing the changes." A person will show a bird with particular marks and color, in full feather. which he matches against another equal in weight; he then retires to trim him for the fight, but returns with another, marked and colored like the first, but much larger, gaining by this manœuvre a decided advantage.

Handlers sometimes. when they want a fowl to lose a battle, will give him castor oil. If they have a cock sure of winning they will cover him with grease and lampblack or chalk and grease, so that odds will be bet against him.

CHAPTER VII.

THE ARRANGING OF MAINS.

Pit birds that will fight have to be of a high order, and therefore they are carefully bred. The breeding alone is not sufficient; they have to be trained with great care. Much skill is displayed by some trainers in trimming and preparing cocks for matches. Young cocks are not so valuable for fighting purposes, two years old being considered the best The cocks have to go through a process of training for each fight with as much precision as an athlete, and fight numbers of sham battles with muffled spurs before they enter the cock pit. When fighting, steel spurs nearly two inches long are put on the cocks, and it re-

quires a man of considerable experience to perform that operation.

In fighting a match, or more technically speaking, a main, a certain number of cocks are shown by each side. They are then weighed with great care and matched according to their weights Those that come within two ounces of each other in weight "fall in," and are considered matched. Each battle is fought for a stake, and the side which wins the most battles also wins the main, upon which about four times the amount of a battle money generally depends.

The rules of fighting are very particular. When a main is fought, the birds are brought in each by a "handler." While holding the cocks they allow each to peck at the other until the handlers think their combativeness is thoroughly aroused, and then each handler rushes his bird on to the contest. Instantly all is confusion, the spectators shouting their praises of their favorite bird and offering to back their opinion with money, which always

finds a willing investor in the champions of the other cock. The battle generally lasts about seven minutes and usually ends in the death or permanent injury of one of the contestants. During the usual intermission of ten minutes bets are paid and a rush made for the bar-room, which is considered a necessary adjunct to a cock-pit and always can be found close by. The pit is usually located in an upper floor, and extraordinary precautions are taken to prevent the entrance of others than the initiated.

As an illustration, A challenges B to fight a main against any breeder in America, according to the following conditions: Each side is to show twenty-one cocks, at weights ranging from four pounds to five pounds twelve ounces, and fight all that shall "fall in" within two ounces of each other for $100 a side each battle and $500 a side the odd fight.

B accepts the terms and the match is made, both, we will say, agree to fight in New Jersey. Both parties put their birds in training, and

when the day for the fight arrives the weighing commences, and out of the twenty-one cocks each side has produced seventeen have weighed in; that is, at even weights. The weights of the respective chanticleers are placed on a match list and hung over the centre of the pit.

To win the main, A must win eight battles. So must B. Each side after fighting sixteen battles may each have won eight, so that the winner of the seventeenth battle wins the main. In all mains the side winning the most battles wins the main, and the odd fight is the battle on which the most money is staked. The following is the form of agreement generally used in arranging important matches:

Articles of agreement made the.....day of..... one thousand nine hundred and....., between..... .... First, the said parties have agreed that each of them shall produce, show and weigh, at....., on the.....day of,..... ....., beginning at the hour of....., cocks not under....., nor above....., and as many of each party's cocks as come within two ounces of each other shall fight for.....a battle; that is,.....each cock, in as equal divisions as the battles can be divided into six pits, or day's

play, at the cock-pit before mentioned, and the party's cocks that win the greatest number of battles, matched out of the number before specified, shall be entitled to the sum of....., odd battle money, and the sum to be staked in the hands of..... before any cocks are pitted, by both parties: and we further agree to produce, show and weigh, on the said weighing days, ... cocks for.....bye battles, subject to the same weight as the cocks in the main, and these to be added to the number of cocks unmatched: and as many of them as come within two ounces of each other shall fight for..... a battle; the number of cocks so matched to be equally divided as will permit of, and added to each day's play of the main cocks; and it is also agreed that the balance of the battle money shall be paid at the end of each day's play; it is also further agreed that the cocks fight with steel spurs, and with fair hackles, and to be subject to all the usual rules of cock fighting, and the profits arising from the spectators, called door money, to be equally divided between both parties, after all charges are paid that usually happen on these occasions. Witness our hands this..... day of.....19..

CHAPTER VIII.

THE REVISED STANDARD POLICE GAZETTE COCK FIGHTING RULES.

Rule 1. After the cocks have been placed in the pit the referee and judges shall examine the spurs and see that they do not exceed one and a quarter inches in length, and that they are the regular fair heel, and not cutters, drop socket or slashers.

2. All pitters are to deliver their cocks six feet apart and then retire.

3. If a pitter should produce a fowl whose weight exceeds that given in the match list, he forfeits the battle.

4. All heels that are round from the socket to the point are allowed to be fair; any pitter

bringing a cock to the pit with any other kind of heels, except by particular agreement, forfeits the battle.

5. If either cock should be trimmed with a close, unfair hackle, the judge shall direct the other to be cut in the same manner; and at time shall observe to the pitter that if he brings another cock in the like situation, unless he shall have been previously trimmed, he shall forfeit the battle.

6. A pitter when he delivers his cock shall retire two paces back, and not advance or walk around his cock, until a blow is passed.

7. An interval of ten minutes shall be allowed between the termination of one battle and the commencement of another

8. No pitter shall pull a feather out of a cock's mouth, nor from over his eyes or head, or pluck him by the breast, to make him fight, or pinch him for a like purpose, under penalty of forfeiting the battle.

9 The pitters are to give their cocks room to fight, and are not to hover or press

on them, so as to retard them from striking.

10 Greasing, peppering, muffing and soaping a cock, or any other external application are unfair practices, and by no means admissible in this amusement.

11. The judge. when required, may suffer a pitter to call in a few of his friends to assist in catching his cock, who are to retire immediately as soon as the cock is caught, and in no instance is the judge to suffer the pit to be broken.

12. All cocks on their backs are immediately to be turned over on their bellies, by their respective pitters, at all times.

13. A cock, when down, is to have a wing given to him, if he needs it, unless his adversary is on it, but his pitter is to place the wing gently in its proper position, and not to lift the cock, and no wing is to be given unless absolutely necessary.

14. If either cock should be hanged in himself, in the pit or canvas, he is to be loosed by his pitter, but if in his adversary, both pitters

are immediately to lay hold of their respective cocks, and the pitter whose cock is hung shall hold him steadily while the adverse party draws out the heel, and then they shall take their cocks asunder a sufficient distance for them fairly to renew the combat.

15. Should the cocks separate, and the judge be unable to decide which fought last, he shall, at his discretion, direct the pitters to carry their cocks to the middle of the pit, and deliver them beak to beak, unless either of them is blind, in which case they are to be shouldered; that is, delivered with their breasts touching, each pitter taking care to deliver his cock at this, as well as at all other times, with one hand.

16. When both cocks cease fighting, it is then in the power of the pitter of the last fighting cock, unless they touch each other, to demand a count of the judge, who shall count forty deliberately, which, when counted out, is not to be counted again during the battle. Then the pitters shall catch their cocks, and carry

them to the middle of the pit, and deliver them beak to beak, but to be shouldered, if either of them is blind, as before. Then, if either cock refuses or neglects to fight, the judge shall count ten, and shall call out "once refused," and shall direct the pitters to bring their cocks again to the middle of the pit, and put to as before; and if the same cock in like manner refuses, shall count ten again and call out, "twice refused," and so proceed until one cock thus refuses six times successively. The judge shall then determine the battle against such cock.

17. If either cock die before the judge can finish the counting of the law, the battle is to be given to the living cock, and if both die the longest liver wins the battle.

18. The pitters are not to touch their cocks while the judge is in the act of counting.

19. No pitter is ever to lay hold of his adversary's cock unless to draw out the heel, and then he must take him below the knee. Then there shall be no second delivery, that is, after

he is once delivered he shall not be touched until a blow is struck, unless ordered by the judge.

20. No pitter shall touch his cock, unless at the times mentioned in the foregoing rules

21. If any pitter acts contrary to these rules the judge, if called on at the time, shall give the battle against him.

CHAPTER IX.

THE STANDARD REVISED NEW YORK RULES, AND WESTERN NEW YORK RULES.

Rule 1. All matches, mains, etc., must be fought in a circulat pit, which shall be at least eighteen feet in diameter, and not less than sixteen inches in height, the floor of which shall be covered with carpet, or some other suitable material.

2. Every pit used for matches and mains shall have a chalk or other mark made in the centre of the enclosure, or as near as possible. There shall also be two outer marks, which shall be placed twelve inches each way from the centre mark

3. The pitters before a match or main must each select one judge.

4. The judges selected by the principals shall select a referee. The judges shall decide all matters in regard to the matches in dispute during a battle, but should they fail to agree then it shall be the duty of the referee to decide and his decision in all matters appertaining to the fight shall be final.

5. Chicken's ages shall date from March 1st of each year, and shall be considered chickens until the fighting season is over, viz., from March 1, 1909, to June 1, 1910.

6. If a pitter pit a cock with any of the feathers left whole on the neck, it shall be considered foul.

7. In fighting fowls, a pitter shall be allowed to allow each cock bill each other three or more times, but he shall not be allowed to bill with his opponent's cock for the purpose of fatiguing him.

8. No person shall, under any consideration, be permitted to handle his fowl after he is fairly delivered in the pit, unless he counts ten clear and distinct, without either cock

making fight, nor shall he do so while his fowl is fast or his gaffs are entangled in his adversary's fowl, or his spurs are entangled in the web or carpet of the pit.

9. Any cock that may get on his back, the pitter thereof shall turn him off it, but not take him off the ground he is lying on.

10. Whenever a cock is fast in his adversary, the pitter of the cock the spurs are fast in shall draw them out, but the pitter of a cock has no right to draw out his own spur, except when fast in himself. or in the carpet, or in the web of the pit.

11. When either pitter shall have counted ten tens successively, without the cock refusing fight, making fight, again breasting them fair on their feet, breast to breast and beak to beak, on the centre score or mark, on the fifth ten being told, and also on the ninth ten being told, shall have won the fight. The pitters are bound to tell each ten as they count them, as follows—once, twice, etc.

12. No pitter, after the cocks have been

delivered in the pit, shall be permitted to clean their beaks, or eyes, by blowing or otherwise, or of squeezing his fowl, or pressing him against the floor during the pendency of a fight.

13. When a cock is pounded, and no person takes it until the pitter counts twenty twice, and calls three times, "Who takes it?" and no person does take it, it is a battle to the cock the odds are on; but the pitter of the pounded cock has the right to have the pound put up, that is, twenty dollars against one; should not this be complied with, then the pitter shall go on as though there was no poundage.

14. If a cock is pounded and the poundage taken, and if the cock the odds are laid against should get up and knock down his adversary, then if the other cock is pounded and the poundage not taken, before the pitter counts twenty twice, and calls out, "Who takes it?" three times, he wins, although there was a poundage before.

15. It shall be the duty of the respective pitters to deliver their cocks fair on their feet

on the outer mark or score, facing each other, and in a standing position, except on the fifth ten being told, and also on the ninth ten being told, when they shall be placed on the centre score, breast to breast and beak to beak, in like manner. Any pitter being guilty of shoving his fowl across the score, or of pinching him, or using any other unfair means for the purpose of making his cock fight, shall lose the fight.

16. If both cocks fight together, and then both should refuse until they are counted out, in such cases a fresh cock is to be hoveled and brought into the pit, and the pitters are to toss for which cock is to set to first; he that wins has the choice; then the one which is to set to last is to be taken up, but not carried out of the pit. The hoveled cock is then to be put down to the other and let fight, while the judges, or one of them, shall count twenty, and the other in like manner, and if one fight and the other refuse, it is a battle to the fighting cock; but if both fight or both refuse, it is a drawn battle.

N. B.—This rule is rarely carried into effect but any pitter can exact it if he thinks proper.

17. If both cocks refuse fighting until four, five or more, or less tens are counted, the pitters shall continue their count until one cock has refused ten times; for when a pitter begins to count, he counts for both cocks.

18. If a cock should die before they are counted out, if he fights last he wins the battle; this, however, is not to apply when his adversary is running away.

19. The crowing or raising of the hackle of a cock is not fight, nor is fighting at the pitter's hands.

20. A breaking cock shall be considered a fighting cock, but a cock running away from his adversary in a fight shall not be so considered.

21. If any dispute should arise between pitters on the result of a fight, the cocks must not be taken out of the pit nor the gaffs removed, until the dispute is decided either by the judges or the referee.

22. Each fowl that weighs within two ounces of each other shall be a match, except when blinkers, when fighting against two-eyed cocks, an allowance from three to five ounces shall be made. When blinkers are matched against each other, the same rule to apply as to two-eyed cocks.

23. All matches must be fought with heels round from the socket to the point not exceeding one and a quarter inches in length unless otherwise agreed to. Drop sockets, twisted gaffs and cutters shall be considered foul.

24. Before a main is fought the pitters shall each place a pair to the referee. Both pairs shall be placed together, and the pitters shall toss for choice of them.

25. In all matches or mains, at the end of each battle, the judges shall order the gaffs to be changed; that is, the spurs used by the winning cock to be placed on the fowl of the party that lost the fight, and the gaffs shall be changed after every battle.

26. Any pitter fighting a fowl heavier than

he is represented to be on the match list, although he may have the battle, shall forfeit or lose the fighting.

27. In all disputes and cases of appeal, fighting shall cease until the judges or referee decide the disputed question, and the decision shall be final and binding.

28. After a pitter has placed his cock on the score, he shall take his hands off as quickly as possible.

29. All persons are forbid entering the pit during a fight except the pitters.

30. All these rules are binding, and any person violating them shall be deemed to have lost the battle.

THE REVISED WESTERN NEW YORK RULES.

Rule 1 The pit shall be at least twelve feet in diameter and ten inches in height. A chalk mark in the centre, and two outer marks eighteen inches from the centre.

2. The handlers shall choose a judge to decide all matters in dispute during the fighting.

In all cases of appeal the fighting ceases until the judge gives his decision, which shall be final. If any dispute arises between the pitters the cocks are not to be taken from the pit, nor the spurs taken off until it is decided by the judge.

3. Cocks within two ounces are a match, except blinkers, when three to five ounces should be allowed.

4. The spurs shall be one and a quarter inch, round head, fair from socket to point, to be changed every fight.

5. The pitters shall deliver their cocks fair on their feet on the outer mark, excepting the first scoring, which should be at least four feet from the centre score.

6. When one cock has refused to fight, the pitter of the fighting cock shall count ten clear and distinct, and appeal to the judge for a count. If allowed, he will count five tens, naming and scoring at each ten at the outer score. At the fifth ten they will breast at the centre, and the pitter of the cock that has the

count shall count twenty, and win the fight.

7. If during a count both cocks refuse to fight, the pitter of the cock fighting last shall be entitled to the count. The judge shall decide who is entitled to the count if both pitters claim the count.

8. If a cock fights last, he wins the fight even should he die before the count is out. A cock picking is a fighting cock, excepting on the fifth ten being told, when he must be a breaking cock to break the count. A fighting cock does not break his own count.

9. A pitter is not allowed to handle his cock after he is delivered without counting ten clear and distinct, and one cock refusing to fight. The judge shall overlook a small error, and to the best of his knowledge let the best cock win.

10. Any pitter guilty of squeezing his bird, or shoving him across the score, or taking feathers from or sucking or wiping his beak, shall be deemed foul handling, and if claimed he shall lose the fight.

11. The birds shall be weighed before leav-

ing the pit, before or after the fight as agreed upon. If the winner is heavier than the match list provides, he loses. Two ounces over check weight is a match.

12. The poundage shall be twenty to one. The pitter of the cock pounding shall count twenty twice, and at the end of which he shall say, "Who takes?" three times. The money shall be put in the pit; if not taken he wins; if taken he shall count five tens as usual. A cock can be pounded five times; if taken once he can pound him again; the odds and taken money to be handed to the judge by one of the pitters.

13. A cock pounded, if he in turn has recovered, can pound the cock that the odds were first on.

14. The birds shall, if hackled, be sure to have no foul hackle.

15. A cock on his back can be turned over by his handler, but not on his side. The handler can only handle his bird without asking the judge when he is fast in himself or

in the pit. The judge should say quickly, when they are fast in each other, "Handle!"

16. The judge's decision in all cases is to be final.

17. A cock running away cannot win. If both run, they shall be tried by a fresh cock; if one fights and the other does not, the fighting cock wins; if both refuse, the fight shall be declared a draw.

18. Any violation of the above rules loses the fight.

CHAPTER X.

THE NEW CANADIAN COCK FIGHTING RULES.

Rule 1. All birds shall be weighed, give or take two ounces, shall be a match or otherwise, if parties see fit to make it so.

2. All heels to be fought with shall be round, from socket to point, or as near as can be made.

3. When a stag is matched against a cock, the stag will be entitled to four ounces advance in weight.

4. It shall be fair for handlers to pull feathers and sling blood, or any other thing to help the bird between handlings.

5. It shall be foul for A or B to touch their birds while fighting, unless one is fast to the other, but if a bird should unfortunately fasten

himself with his own heel, it shall be fair to handle, but on no other consideration, and either handler violating or deviating from the above rule shall lose his fight.

6. Thirty seconds shall be allowed before each and every round.

7. In counting, the bird showing fight last shall be entitled to the count, but if his handler refuses to take the count, the opposite handler shall be entitled to it.

8. The handler having the count shall pit his bird in his respective place when time is called, and count ten, then handle three more successive times; when time is called again, the birds shall be placed in the centre of the pit, breast to breast, and forty more counted, and if the bird not having the count refuses to fight, the one having it shall be declared the winner.

9. A peck or blow at the opponent's bird, and not at his handler, will be considered fighting.

10. When time is called the handlers must

let go their birds from their respective places, fair and square, for it shall be foul for either handler to pitch or toss his bird upon his opponent's, and either one violating the above rule shall lose his fight.

11. Each party shall choose a judge, and the judges shall choose a disinterested party as referee. No referee will be competent who has bet on either side, or is otherwise interested.

12. It shall be the duty of the judges and referee to watch all movements of the fight, and judge according to the above rules. The referee will be confined to the opinions of the judges only, and his decision final.

13. It shall be the duty of the referee to keep time between the rounds, and notify the handlers to get ready at twenty-five seconds, then call time at thirty seconds; when the handlers must be prompt in pitting their birds; and if either handler refuses to do so he shall lose his fight.

CHAPTER XI.

SOUTHERN RULES.

Rule 1. On the morning the main is to commence, the parties decide by lot who shows first. It is to be remembered that the party obtaining choice chooses to weigh first, and, consequently, obliges the adverse party to show first, as the party showing first weighs last. When the show is made by the party the door of the cock house is to be locked and the key given to the other party, who immediately repairs to his cock house and prepares for weighing. There ought to be provided a pair of good scales, and weights as low down as half an ounce. One or two judges to be appointed to weigh the cocks. Each party, by

weighing the cocks intended for the show a day or two beforehand, and having all their respective weights, will greatly facilitate the business of the judges. There must be two writers to take down the colors, weights, marks, etc., of each game fowl. No feathers shall be allowed to be cut or plucked from the cocks before they are weighed, except a few from behind to keep them clean and their wings and tail clipped a little.

2. As soon as the cocks are all weighed, the referee, the writers and the principals of each side, and as many as the principals may agree upon, shall retire for the purpose of "matching." All even matches shall be made first. Then those within one ounce and afterwards those within two ounces of each other. Should more matches be arranged by allowing an even or one ounce each, it will be ruleable.

3. It shall also be a rule that on the day of "showing" for only one battle to be fought unless mutually agreed otherwise by the principals.

4. It must be understood that the party or parties winning the show by tossing for it, shall be allowed the choice of fighting the first battle with any cock he may select from his batch. After this battle the fighting must commence with the lightest pair of the division first, and so on up to the heaviest, fighting them in rotation as they increase in weight according to the match list. The trimming of the fowls is in all cases to be governed by the first battle.

5. The gaffs to be used are to be any length according to the agreement of the principals, but not to exceed an inch and a half in length.

6. All bets to follow the stakes, and the referee's decision on all questions regarding matches or mains to be final.

CHAPTER XII.

CALIFORNIA RULES.

Rule 1. When the cocks are brought into the pit, the pitters must enter at the same time, and no other person shall be allowed in the pit.

2. The referee shall examine the fowls and see that both have the same length and style of heels.

3. No greasing, soaping, peppering or other external preparation shall be allowed, and any cock found with any preparation shall lose the match.

4. The pitters must deliver the cocks fairly on their feet upon the score and then retire two steps, and not move their hands or feet

or walk around until their fowl strike a blow. Then they may approach for the purpose of handling them if necessary.

5. If either cock refuses to fight it shall be considered no match.

6. If the cocks become fast or entangled, the pitters must lay hold of their respective cocks, and the party whose cock is hanged shall hold him steadily while the reverse party draws the heel, nor shall either party cause, in any manner, unnecessary injury or punishment while the heels are being extracted, and as soon as the cocks are freed they shall be again delivered on the score.

7. All cocks hanged in the canvas, ground, or in themselves, shall be loosened by their respective pitters at all times.

8. When one or both cocks are hanged, it is necessary to handle them and deliver them to the score, so they may renew the combat fairly.

9. When the cocks are put to, if either cock refuses to fight, the other pitter has the right to the count, when he proceeds to count forty

deliberately, which, when counted, is not to be counted again during that battle.

10. Should either or both cocks, after being delivered, not make fight, the pitter whose cock fought last shall be entitled to the count, when he shall count deliberately six times ten, and at every count they shall both handle and deliver their cocks on the score. On the third and sixth count they shall deliver their cocks breast to breast, and if on the sixth count, after being so delivered, they do not make fight, the pitter having the count shall have won the fight.

11. If in counting the law the other cock makes fight, that breaks the count, and if he is the last fighter he is entitled to the count; but one must refuse or neglect to make fight six successive times before the battle can be decided against him.

12. If either or both cocks die before the pitters finish counting the law, the fight shall be awarded to the last fighting cock.

13. Neither pitter shall be allowed to touch

or handle his cock while counting the law.

14. No pitter shall be allowed to suck or sling blood from his cock's throat or mouth, nor pluck feathers from over his eyes or out of his mouth.

15 All cocks laying on their backs shall be turned on their bellies by their respective pitters, at all times, provided the other cock is not standing on him. If his pitter neglect or refuse to turn him, it is then admissible for the other pitter to turn him gently on his belly.

16. All cocks shall have a wing given them, provided the other is not upon it. In giving the wing it is to be placed gently by his side, without raising the cock or helping him to his feet.

17. When both cocks break together, and the pitters and the judges are unable to decide which fought last, or when both are hanged in each other, it shall be the duty of the judges to order them to the score; then if both refuse to fight, the pitters shall count the law, and have them put to as if the count were

actually going on; and if neither make fight before the count is finished the fight shall be pronounced drawn.

18. Any pitter acting contrary to the foregoing rules forfeits the battle.

THE REVISED BALTIMORE (MD.) RULES.

Rule 1 All birds shall be weighed, give or take two ounces, shall be a match or otherwise, if parties see fit to make it so.

2. When a stag is matched against a cock, the stag will be entitled to four ounces advance in weight. Blinkers are allowed four ounces when fighting against two-eyed cocks.

3. The handlers shall each choose one judge, who shall choose a referee; said judges shall decide all matters in dispute during the pendency of the fight. But in case of their inability to agree, it shall be the duty of the referee to decide, and his decision shall be final.

4. Thirty seconds (or a count of fifteen by the judge or referee, as the handlers may

agree) shall be allowed between each and every round.

5. It shall be the duty of the referee to keep time between the rounds, and notify the handlers to get ready in twenty-five seconds, call time in thirty seconds, when the handlers must be prompt in pitting their cocks, and if either handler refuses to do so he shall lose the fight.

6. It shall be fair for handlers to pull feathers and sling blood, or any other thing to help the bird between handlings.

7. It shall be foul for A or B to touch their birds while fighting, unless one is fast to the other, but if a bird should unfortunately fasten himself with his own heel it shall be fair to handle, but on no other consideration, and either handler violating or deviating from the above rules shall lose his fight.

8. In counting, the bird showing fight last shall be entitled to the count.

9. The handlers shall pit their birds in their respective places when time is called, and the handler having the count shall count ten, then

handle two more successive times and count ten each time. When time is called again, the birds shall be placed in the centre of the pit, breast to breast and beak to beak, and twenty more counted, and if the bird not having the count refuse to fight, the one having it shall be declared the winner.

10. It shall be the duty of the respective handlers to deliver their birds fair on their feet at each pitting, on the mark or score facing each other and in a standing position.

11. A peck or blow at the opponent's bird, and not at his handler, will be considered fighting.

12. When time is called, the handlers must let go their birds from their respective places, fair and square; for it shall be foul for either handler to pitch or toss his bird upon his opponent's, and either one violating the above rule, shall lose his fight.

13. If both birds fight together, and then if both should refuse, they are to be pitted at the outer score twice, and then breasted on the

centre score, breast to breast and beak to beak, in a standing position; in this case the birds are to lay in the pit thirty seconds at each pitting, and at the last pitting, if both should refuse, it is a drawn battle.

14. In the case of a bird that dies, if he fights last and his handler has the count he wins the battle.

15. Whenever a bird is fast in his adversary the handler of the bird the spurs are fast in shall draw them out, but the handler of a bird has no right to draw out his own spur except when fast in himself, or in the floor, or in the web of the pit.

16. The greasing, peppering or soaping a cock, or any other external applications, are unfair practices, and by no means admissible in this amusement.

17. The handlers are to give their birds room to fight, and not to hover and press on them so as to retard their striking.

18. Any person fighting a bird heavier than he is represented on the match list, shall

lose the fight although he may have won.

19. In all cases of appeal, fighting ceases until the judges, or the referee, give their decision, which shall be final and strictly to the question before them.

20. Each handler, when delivering his bird on the score, shall take his hands off him as quickly as possible.

21. No handler shall touch his bird unless at the times mentioned in the foregoing rules.

22. If any dispute arises between the handlers on the result of the fight, the birds are not to be taken out of the pit nor the gaffs taken off until it is decided by the judges and referee.

23. It shall be the duty of the judges and referee to watch all movements of the fights, and judge according to the above rules.

24. When a bet is made it cannot be declared off, unless by consent of both parties, all outside bets to go according to the main bet.

25. Any person violating any of the above rules shall be deemed to have lost the match.

MASSACHUSETTS RULES.

Rule 1. All fowls brought to the pit must be weighed and marked down, for those to see that have fowls to fight.

2. Fowls within two ounces are a match.

3. A stag is allowed four ounces when he fights against a cock.

4. A blinker is allowed four ounces when he fights against a sound fowl.

5. Fowls being ready, brought to pit.

6. Each man takes his station and sets his fowl to the right or left, as he pleases; there remains till the fowls are in one another, or in the tan or on his back.

7. The handler shall not assist his fowl from where he sits him; if he does, he forfeits the battle.

8. In no case shall they handle the fowls, unless they are in one another, or can count ten between fighting.

9. The fowls in hand, each man to his station;

either counting ten, the fowls must be set or the delinquent loses the match.

10. The fowls set, either refuses to show fight, the last that showed has the count, which is five times ten, and then they are breasted.

11. The fowls are breasted at every five times ten, after once being breasted.

12. The fowls brought to the breast, the one that had the count counts five times ten more, and then twenty—then he claims the battle, which is his.

13. In case the fowls show while counting, it destroys the count, and they commence again.

14. In case a fowl is on his back, his handler can turn him over.

15. In all cases the parties can select judges from the company present.

16. In no case shall any person talk with the handlers while the fowls are fighting.

17. All weighing will be left to a man selected for the purpose.

18. All matches will be fought with round heels, unless otherwise agreed upon.

19. A pitter known to use any other unless mutually agreed upon shall forfeit the battle.

20. All twisted heels, drop heels, cutters, slashers are unfair heels, and will not be allowed.

21. In all mains the fowl that shows fight must be allowed the count.

22. All cocks brought into the pit that do not show fight lose the battle unless otherwise agreed upon.

CHAPTER XIII.

PIT TERMS.

Cock—A male bird over one year old.

Stag—A male bird under one year old.

Bishop—A cock whose spurs have been so trimmed as to look like those of a stag.

Sulker—A cock or stag that, when cut, will not run away or fight.

Strainer—A cock or stag one side of whose breeding is a dunghill.

Blinker—A cock or stag of which the sight of one eye has been destroyed.

Mouther—A cock or stag that in battle will peck instead of striking.

Shakebag—A cock or stag over six and half pounds.

Wheeler—A cock or stag that will wheel and run when short of wind, and then return to attack.

Gaffs—The steel spurs used in the pit on fighting game fowls.

Battered Bird—A cock or stag more or less damaged from fighting.

Blinded—The sight of both eyes destroyed, either by being cut out or having the optic nerve paralyzed by a cut across the back of the head.

Cut Crazy—A blow across back of head with spur that causes bird to jump aimlessly about or run away, after recovering from which, they return and fight fiercely.

Heeling—Tying on the steel gaffs.

Holding—The work performed by one holding the bird while being heeled.

Match—Such cocks or stags as fall within two ounces of each other. Stags and blinkers are allowed four ounces over a sound cock and blinkers and stags match as do cocks.

Battle Royal—Three or more cocks turned

loose to fight without handling until but two remain able to fight, when they are handled as in matched battles.

Odd Fight—The battle which gives a majority in a main.

Feathering the Pit—Fights generally had before the regular main.

Pins—New feathers.

Sparring—The act of fighting without a bill hold.

Keep, Feed, Condition—Course of exercise and dieting in preparation of birds for the pit.

Pit.—The place in which birds are fought.

Crowing Under—The losing of spirits and courage by a bird in coop while in the presence of others.

Hacking—The losing of courage from sparring or abuse.

Check Weight—A matched battle to exact weight.

Main—The showing of a certain number of birds, between certain weights, and fighting all that fall in.

Hack Fight—Battle not in main.

Uncoupled—A cut over the back that disables bird to stand.

Breast Couple—A cut in the breast that causes bird to tip forward when set on his feet.

Wry Neck—A cut in the muscles of the neck that causes head to draw to one side or turn back.

Walk—A place where birds are allowed to run free.

Muffs—The stuffed gloves to tie over the spurs to prevent injury while sparring birds.

Billing—The act of causing cocks to pick each other to arouse combativeness before setting to.

Setting To—The act of putting cocks on their respective scratches and handling.

Handling—The act of setting to and seeing the bird handled receives all the care, privileges and advantages allowed under the rules.

Cutting Out—Trimming feathers preparatory to battle.

A Pitting—Is not determined by time in any

ordinary fights. When a cock gets hung in the pit, either himself or his opponent, it is the duty of the referee to call "handle." This constitutes a pitting.

Break—When both birds fight at the same time.

Callsas—The Mexican name for the string with loop and swivel used in Mexico to picket out cocks, now extensively used in this country.

Buckle—Same as break.

Shuffling—The act of kicking very fast on a bill hold, whether done while in the air or on the ground.

Rattle—A wound in the neck from which the flow of blood interferes with breathing.

Deep Rattle—A cut in lung that causes a hemorrhage.

Stale—Weakness and lack of condition from long cooping.

Giving a Wing—The act of gently placing a cock's wing in proper position by his pitter, when down, without lifting the cock.

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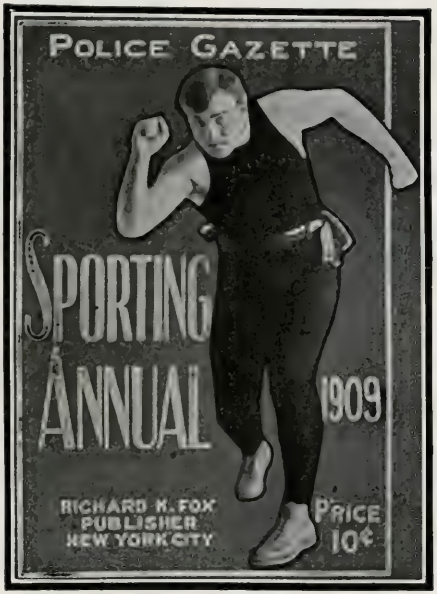

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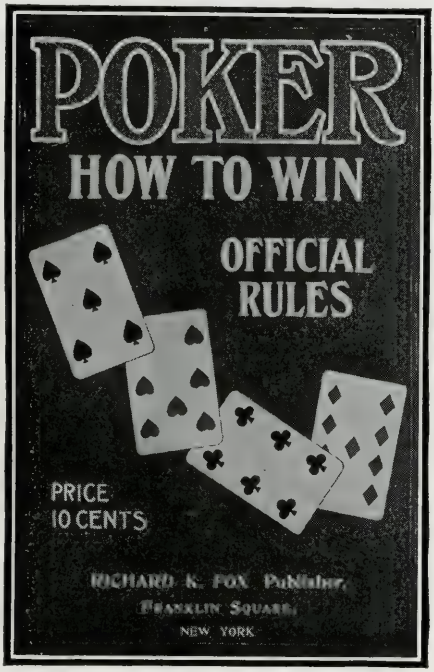

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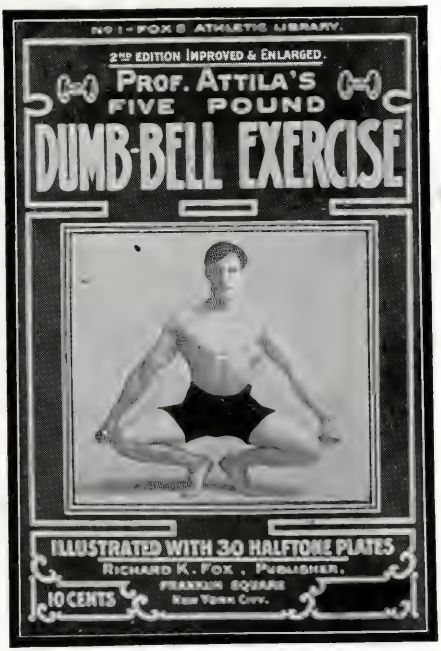

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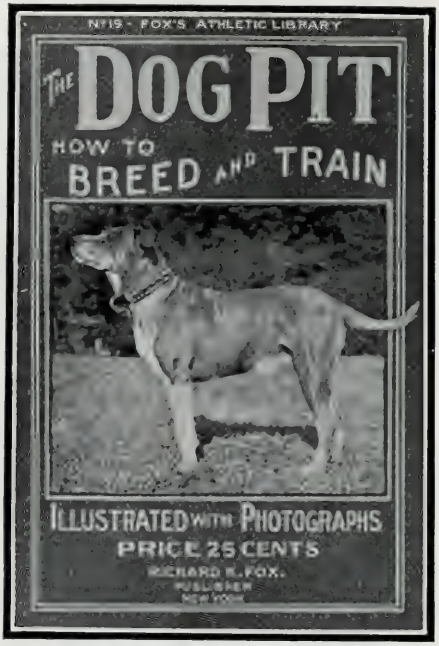

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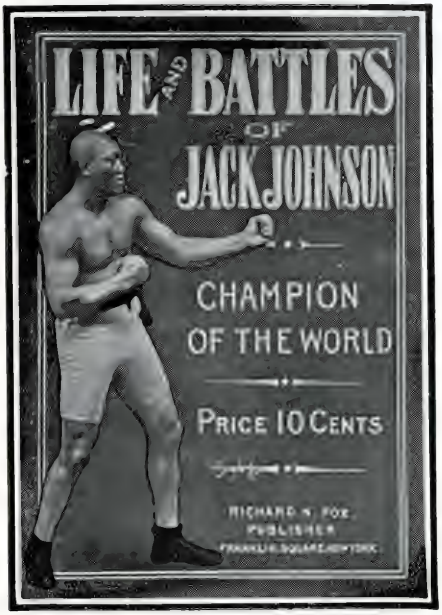

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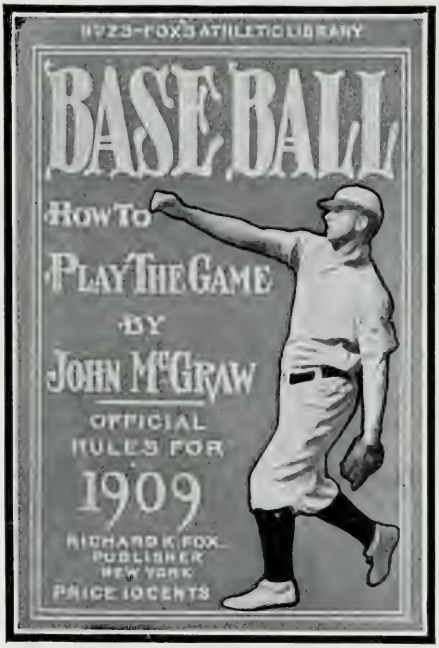

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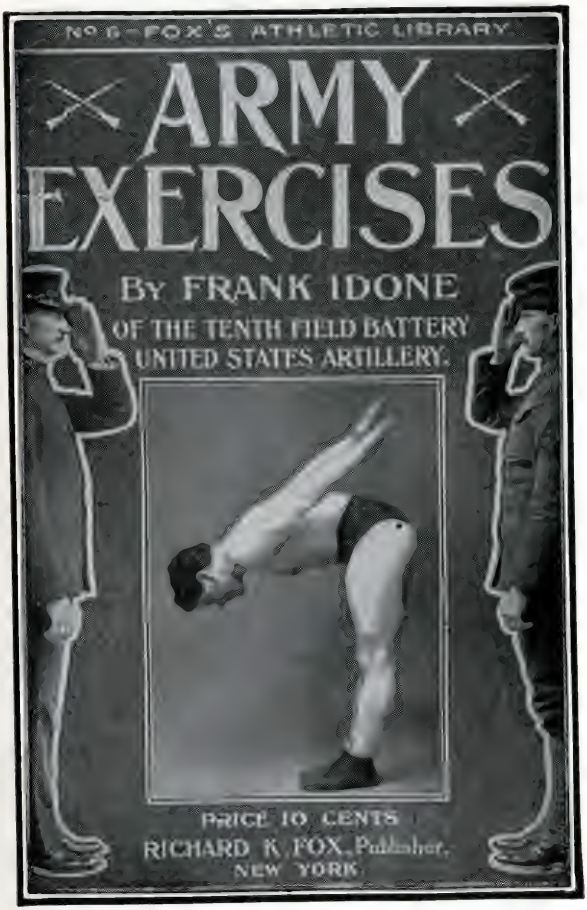

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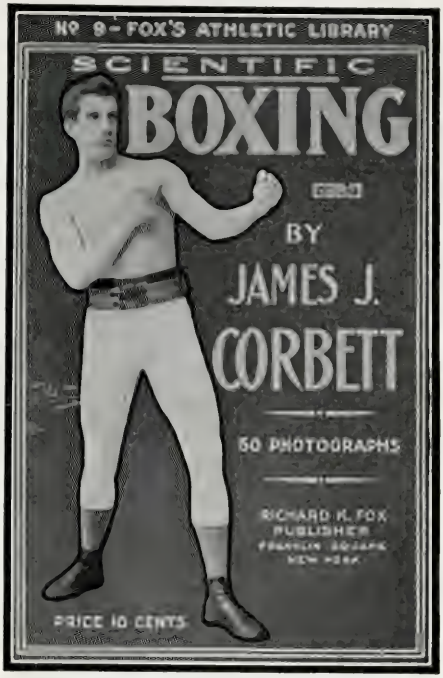

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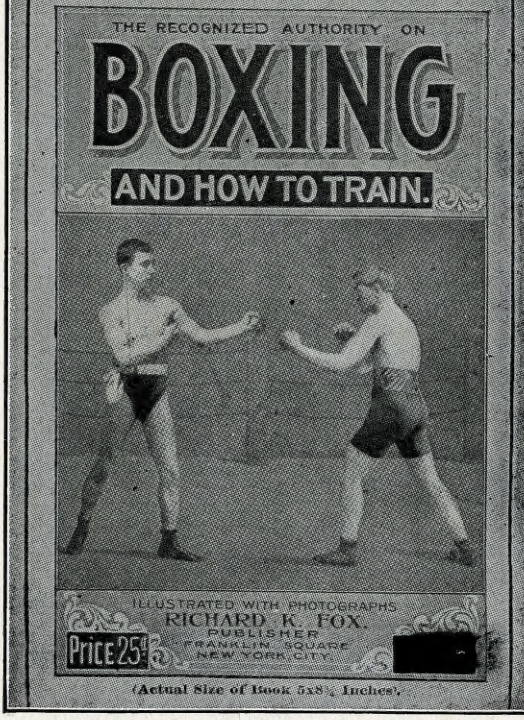

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